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Docket: 2823 (203-3209 PCT US)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Orban, et al.

EXAMINER: NYK

SERIAL NO.: 10/516,435

GROUP: Art Unit 3721

FILED: November 30, 2004

DATED: February 23, 2007

TITLE: ANNULAR SUPPORT STRUCTURES

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

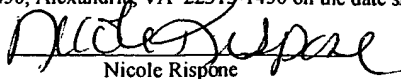
Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO/SB/08A is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the U.S. patent documents are not provided in accordance with the waiver of that requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

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Dated: February 23, 2007


Nicole Risponne

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.

☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under §1.114.

☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.

☐ Applicant(s) hereby state(s) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).

☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2).

☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))

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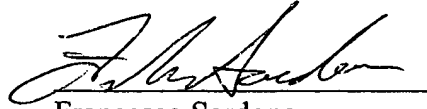
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The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Francesco Sardone', is written over a horizontal line.

Francesco Sardone

Reg. No.: 47,918

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP

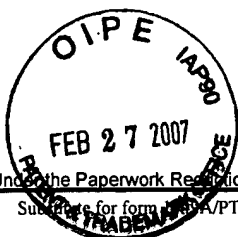
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/516,435
Filing Date	November 30, 2004
First Named Inventor	Orban, et al.
Art Unit	NYK
Examiner Name	NYK
Attorney Docket Number	2823 (203-3209 PCT US)

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS *WITHOUT REFERENCES*

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
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		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		WO 90/005489	05-31-1990	Immuno Sweden AB		
		WO 03/082126 A1	10-09-2003	Synovis Life Technologies, Inc.		
		WO 03/105968	12-24-2003	Tyco Healthcare Group, LP		
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